

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONROV 02576 080745Z

ACTION SS-25

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-----055867 080832Z /11

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FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8881

CONFIDENTIAL MONROVIA 2576

STADIS//////////
EXDIS

FOR DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AODE
SUBJECT: MODE - EVALUATION OF PERSONNEL LEVELS BY CHIEF OF MISSION

REF: (A) STATE 80366, (B) STATE 66110

1. IN RESPONSE TO REFTELS I HAVE ONCE AGAIN (IN CONSULTATION WITH THE AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES) CAREFULLY REVIEWED AND AM GENERALLY SATISFIED WITH THE PRESENT STRENGTHS OF THE VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF OUR MISSION HERE; AND, OF COURSE, WE WILL BE LOOKING AGAIN AT LEVELS IN RESPONSE TO THE FY 80 ZBB STUDIES.

2. THERE IS ONE POSITION IN AID/LIBERIA WHICH COULD BE ELIMINATED NOW, THE ASSISTANT GSO POSITION NO. 216992022. THIS POSITION HAS BEEN VACANT FOR TWO YEARS AND, ALTHOUGH AID/LIBERIA IS ON RECORD AS FAVORING ITS ABOLITION (MONROVIA 1472), IT IS NOT CLEAR THAT AID/WASHINGTON CONCURS.

3. I WELCOME REFTELS AS WELL AS YOUR AND THE SECRETARY'S SUPPORT IN TRYING TO HOLD DOWN NUMBERS
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OF PERSONNEL. I AM A LITTLE CONCERNED THAT AT THE SAME TIME WE ARE TRYING TO BE RESPONSIVE TO THE PRESIDENT'S VIEWS OF WHAT HE CONSIDERS EXCESSIVE OFFICIAL EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS BOTH AID AND PEACE CORPS ARE TALKING ABOUT INCREASED PROGRAMS AND PERSONNEL OVERSEAS. I AM SURE YOU ARE MORE FULLY BRIEFED THAT I ON THE PLANS OF THESE TWO AGENCIES, BUT THE INCONSISTENCY

BETWEEN THE THRUST OF REFTELS AND COMMENTS BY
AID AND PEACE CORPS OFFICIALS REGARDING INCREASED
NUMBERS OVERSEAS CREATES A MANAGEMENT PROBLEM FOR US.

4. WITH REGARD TO PEACE CORPS/LIBERIA, AND I HAVE
DISCUSSED THIS WITH HIM, PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR GREBEN
HAS INDICATED TO HIS HEADQUARTERS THAT OVER THE NEXT
TWO YEARS THE NUMBER OF PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS COULD
BE INCREASED FROM THE CURRENT 200 TO BETWEEN 300 AND
325. I HAVE INDICATED THAT I AM NOT CONVINCED LIBERIA
COULD EASILY ABSORB THIS INCREASE AND WOULD BE
PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT THE GOI MIGHT NOT BE
ABLE TO DEAL WITH THE INCREASE IN TERMS OF THE SUPPORT
IT NEEDS TO GIVE TO MAKE PEACE CORPS PROGRAMS
SUCCESSFUL. GREBEN AND I WILL WORK CLOSELY ON THIS
MATTER, AND I AM SATISFIED THAT HE SHARES MY CONCERNS
AND WILL MOVE FORWARD CAUTIOUSLY ON NEW PROGRAMS.
WHAT HE HAS NOT ADDRESSED IN HIS COMMUNICATIONS
WITH WASHINGTON IS THAT AN INCREASE BY 100 PEACE
CORPS VOLUNTEERS HERE WILL INEVITABLY CREATE
PRESSURES FOR INCREASED STAFF. I FLAG THIS AS AN
EXAMPLE OF THE KINDS OF PRESSURES THAT BUILD UP
AND ULTIMATELY DEFEAT EFFORTS TO HOLD THE LINE
ON PERSONNEL INCREASES.

CARTER

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